

DATE: August 15, 2000

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-41)

Mark Shaw – KEWN-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Meadow Creek/Habberstad Fish Habitat Enhancement Project

**Project No:** 2000-075-00

**Budget No:** F5622

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 1.7 Install Other Habitat Complexity Structures; 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management; 1.12 Hardened Fords; 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancement; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancement; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers in Riparian Areas for Thermal Cover; 6.1 Deferred Grazing.

**Location:** Meadow Creek, a tributary of the Upper Grande Ronde River, Union County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The objectives of this project include restoring degraded riparian and floodplain habitat, improving instream habitat diversity and improving water quality for summer steelhead and spring chinook. The project involves the installation of 5.0 miles of livestock exclusion fence along the Habberstad property boundary to protect approximately 400 acres of instream, riparian and upland habitat. The entire parcel will be included in a 15-year ODFW lease agreement that restricts grazing, timber harvest and other management activities. Approximately 40 large trees with root wads and 200 pieces of small wood will be placed in a 1.1-mile section of Meadow Creek to create additional pool habitat and add to the structural complexity of the stream. A low-stage rock weir will be installed at an existing vehicle/livestock crossing site to maintain stream gradient at the site. Riparian areas will be planted with trees, shrubs and grasses. ODFW will monitor and maintain the project area during the 15-year lease agreement.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the ODFW and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River summer steelhead trout, bull trout, gray wolf, lynx, bald eagle, Howell's spectacular thelypody, and Ute ladies'-tresses are the potentially affected listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the project. The proposed actions are

also within designated critical habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish. A Biological Assessment was submitted by ODFW to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). For USFWS listed species including bull trout, gray wolf, lynx, and bald eagle, a determination of “no effect” was concluded. For USFWS listed species including Howell’s spectacular thelpody and Ute ladies’-tresses, no suitable habitat was identified within the project areas. For NMFS listed species a determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” was concluded and NMFS concurred with this finding on July 14, 2000. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the ESA.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) was not initiated because this project does not involve ground disturbance activities that could potentially disturb cultural resources.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6 A, A1, A2, 7.6B, B1-B6, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7 & 7.7A, of the Northwest Power Planning Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Tish K. Levesque

Tish K. Levesque

Environmental Specialist - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/15/00

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NMFS Concurrence Letter

cc: (w/o attachments)

V. McGowan – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

cc: (w/attachments)

K. Nakata – DOE/EH-42

B. Beraud - KECN-4

N. Weintraub - KECN-4

L. Croff - KECP-4

M. Shaw - KEWN-4

P. Key - LC-7

Official File - KECN (EQ-14)